



media release

For Immediate Release – May 28, 2008

Kay Marshall Retires as Community Relations Director at Children Services

Kay Marshall came to Franklin County Children Services because she felt it would be rewarding to try to educate the community about preventing child abuse and to help children find homes. “I thought I would stay 4 years, like my first job after graduating from OSU with a journalism degree, and I stayed 34. Obviously, I found it was very rewarding,” said Marshall.

Marshall began her career at Franklin County Children Services on September 9, 1974. She was hired to write positive stories about the agency and get them placed in the media. Writing, editing and laying out the agency newsletter, Extra Dividend, was an important part of her job.

Marshall was promoted five times, beginning her career as a Public Information officer II and leaving as an Administrator I. She retired as the Director of Community Relations and Homefinding where she oversaw community education and media relations for the agency, foster and adoptive family recruitment and training, volunteers, Holiday Wish, and the Simba and Malaika programs. She was also the original supervisor for the Ombudsman’s office and the Therapeutic Arts Program (TAP).

“One of the things I am most proud of in my career is that I was given the opportunity to supervise and nurture new programs, like Simba, TAP and the Ombudsman,” said Marshall.

Over the past 34 years, her job has included a variety of public relations activities, including media relations, publicity campaigns, writing, speaking, community involvement, special events, and levy campaigns – all focused on protecting children from abuse and finding them permanent, loving homes.

Marshall is a respected and well-liked supervisor at the agency. She began

For further
information
contact
Pam Prosser
275-2520

supervising just two staff, and ended her career as a member of executive council, supervising 32 employees. She always gave her staff the freedom to be creative and made sure to give them credit for the results.

A great ambassador for Children Services, Marshall has served as the agency spokesperson since 1978 and is often complimented for her straightforwardness and diplomacy by the many reporters with whom she works. She saw the importance of keeping informed on politics and community opinions and analyzed how they might impact Children Services' relationship with the community.

Marshall is also an expert in levy coordination and promotion. Under her outstanding direction, the agency passed nine out of ten levies during her tenure allowing the agency to remain financially stable. She has been a part of the agency's senior staff since 1976 and has worked for four executive directors – Wilbert Jansen, Margaret Sandberg, John Saros and Eric Fenner.

Marshall is the founder of the Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast which affords the community the opportunity to see successful families who have overcome hardships and recognizes outstanding college-bound youths from abusive or neglectful backgrounds.

Marshall has served on many committees inside and outside of the agency. She is a recipient of several awards including A Silver Anvil award from the Public Relations Society of America, the Bronze Quill Award from the Columbus International Association of Business Communicators, and several Addy awards.

She is also known for her ability to capably juggle numerous projects, her super-human hearing, her remarkable memory, her impressive skills in calculations and percentages, and last but certainly not least, her devotion to The Ohio State University Buckeyes.

“Franklin County Children Services is filled with talented, committed professionals who are dedicated to protecting children by strengthening families,” she said. “I am proud to have been a part of doing such purposeful work with such wonderful people.”

In retirement, Marshall plans to volunteer, play golf, travel, audit classes at OSU, and find the perfect part-time job.